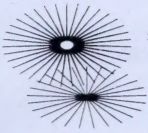


APR 8 1997



Agriculture in the Classroom



**Happy
New Year**

from the AITC Team

We hope you enjoy our Winter Survival Kit, a collection of creative activities and the All About Food booklet sponsored by United Grain Growers.

Summer Ag Institute Grad Develops Curriculum for Junior High

by Ric Swihart -- Lethbridge Herald

Gillian Vas' Free & Easy homework has paid dividends.

Vas, a teacher at the Wrentham School before it was closed in 1996, is instructing at the Cameron Farms Hutterite Colony. And she's turned canola into a student gold field.

Working in her spare time, Vas is ready to publish a new curriculum based on the history, production, processing, use and marketing of canola that fits in the math, science and social studies courses in junior high school.

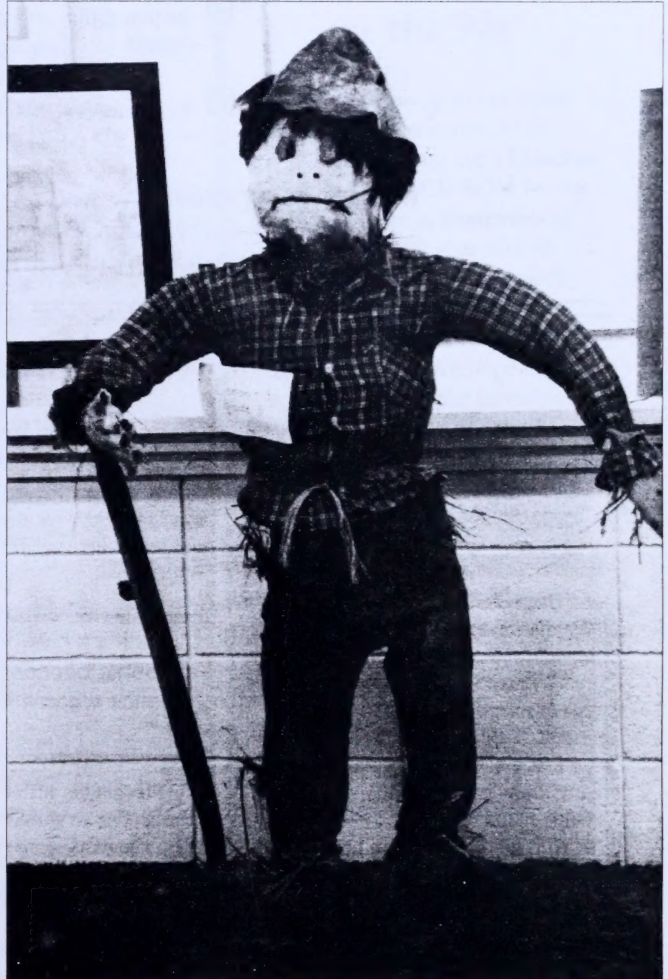
The Alberta Canola Producers Commission liked her idea so much, it honored Vas at its annual convention here.

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WINNER of The Portable Disc Man
— Details Page 3.



Do you have a politically correct title for this Albertan?

NEW --
Fax (403) 422-7755

Free & Easy!!!

A 3-Part Professional Extravaganza - Page 2

Free and Easy!!! — A 3-Part Professional Extravaganza

Ag in the Classroom is excited to announce our New Concept in Professional Development. This program will include all of the highlights of our very successful Summer Agricultural Education Institute. It will be offered this spring in a three part format. March 13, May 30 and 31 plus an independent study option for credit.

The ultimate in **Flexibility**, This event is truly unique! And fully sponsored!

Participants can choose:

- ☒ level of time commitment they are able to make
FROM -- a 1 day mini convention
-- to a 2 day tour
-- or an independent study option for full university credit.
- ☒ session topics and participation
FROM -- hands-on science
-- to media literacy in the '90s.
- ☒ Round tables, workshops and exhibits
-- or add a Bus tour and Farm Stay experience.

THANKS to our major sponsor — **United Farmers of Alberta Coop**
and co-organizers **U of A Continuing Professional Education**
and **U of A Faculties of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and Education.**

Junior High Curriculum -- cont'd

"This will give students a better understanding of agriculture, especially the valuable canola industry."

Bruce Jeffery of Edmonton, commission executive director, said farmers welcome Vas' initiative.

"We recognize the need to get this type of information into the school system," said Jeffery. "This will give students a better understanding of agriculture, especially the valuable canola industry."

It is a long way from her native Scotland where canola comes in bottles, if it is available at all.

Vas was participating in a United Kingdom teacher exchange program in Ghana similar to the Canadian International Development Agency programs.

Vas and her husband Frank moved to Alberta in 1976.

She volunteered her time to help with the chemistry courses at Wrentham. That encouraged her to obtain her Alberta teaching certificate.

The County of Warner hired her for two years to teach a chemistry course she had written. In 1989, she was hired full time to teach elementary and junior high science and math in Wrentham.

"I think it will be good for students because they enjoy science when it is about real life."

She got her official educational introduction to agriculture in 1995 when she participated in the Summer Agricultural Education Institute conducted by the Agriculture in the Classroom Program.

As with all successful participants of the Agriculture in the Classroom Program's Summer Agricultural Education Institute, Vas became the official voice of agriculture in her school, recommending how agriculture could be brought into all aspects of school instruction and life.

"I have always enjoyed developing curriculum, and I talked about

developing a program for canola for the school," said Vas. "I knew I would have to do it on my own time."

Vas admits she learned much about canola and the industry during her work on the curriculum.

"I think it will be good for students because they enjoy science when it is about real life," said Vas.

CORRECTION

The Story of Turkey Production
- Video, VHS, 10 min, 40 sec

Page 61 of the
1996 Agricultural Education
Resource Listing

Listed as Free!!
Should Read -- Free on Loan!!

Portable Disc-Man Winner

The Fall Newsletter featured a competition on Future Innovations in Agriculture.

We had some great entries! The judges looked for ideas, creativity, quality of work and an understanding of technology. It was close but a winner was finally determined.

Shayna Franke a grade 7 student from Rimbey created the most amazing poster, "AGRICULTURE IN 2046 - ALL AROUND THE WORLD - Advanced Technology". Some of her ideas included on this colorful work of art were, cars that can run on garbage, plants that grow at -55° C and edible packaging for snacks. (Unfortunately due to budget restrictions we are not able to include a reproduction of this poster in all it's blazing color in this news letter.)

Shayna will receive her Disc-man in January.

CONGRATULATIONS - ENJOY

Some ideas from other entries were:

- ☞ Huge domes will be constructed to sustain perfect conditions for field crops:
- ☞ Robots to provide labour for the new production systems:
- ☞ People will read the news on internet instead of papers:
- ☞ Man through his greed and ignorance will place humans in a desperate, starving position:
- ☞ Technology will be less dependent on non renewable resources:
- ☞ City and town growth will cement thousands of acres of farmland into wasteland forever:
- ☞ Modern technology will develop a method of treating and purifying polluted waters:
- ☞ Combines will ride on air:
- ☞ Stories of the "Old Ways" are told to future generations:
- ☞ World Peace would reduce hungers:
- ☞ Tractors will be designed to farm steep hillsides:
- ☞ New jobs will be created in agricultural research and technological fields:
- ☞ Men will find more solutions to fit their needs:

Agriculture In The Classroom Newsletter

PURPOSE: To provide Alberta educators with a networking tool containing current information on the agriculture industry and related resources that are available for classroom use.

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**HANGIN'
IN**

Remember

Even a stopped clock is
right twice a day.

AITC RESOURCES Go Hi Tech IN THE 90s

As a follow-up to our multi-media Biotech resource AITC will be transferring our 15 teacher hand books to a CD ROM format for distribution in September of 1997. These 300 plus activity ideas will be linked to a search engine to make selection and review effective and efficient for busy educators. We hope that the option of a computer format will be useful to Alberta teachers.

If you have any suggestion on features you would like included, please call Betty at 427-4225 before March 1st.

NOTICE!!

Our Agricultural Education Resource Listing will soon be on the internet for teachers who like to surf for ideas. We hope to get a direct link from the Alberta Education Home Page to make finding our resources quick and easy.

Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development Home Page Address is —

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca>



Ag. Ambassador Fair 1997

An Alberta Pool Event



We are planning a mini version of our Fair this year. The 7 most popular classes have been selected for inclusion in our prizelist. The most visual and creative entries will be exhibited at the Free and Easy - Edu-Fair on Campus, U of A March 13 and will also tour some Summer Fairs around the province this summer. The Department of Agriculture and agriculture industry will sponsor the prize money for the winning entries in each class. Here are the classes.

IMPORTANT: Entry deadline for all classes is Friday, February 28, 1997.

Division One - Grades 1-2-3

SCIENCE

Class 1

Topic: Production

Display food required for production of two types of agriculture animals (on display). Include actual food, if possible, and pictures of animals that would eat it.

- Class** 1A - Grade 1
1B - Grade 2
1C - Grade 3

LANGUAGE ARTS

Class 2

Topic: Food

Create limericks or short poems about your favorite food or food groups. Include pictures or drawings.

- Class** 2A - Grade 1
2B - Grade 2
2C - Grade 3

Optional Special Project - Individual Class 3

Topic: Agriculture

This class includes any self-directed project on an agriculture theme that cannot be entered in classes 1 or 2. Examples may be music, math, etc.

- Class** 3A - Grade 1
3B - Grade 2
3C - Grade 3

Division Two - Grades 4-5-6

LANGUAGE ARTS

Class 4

Topic: The Farmer
(Yesterday & Today)

Prepare a 3-D display of your image of an Alberta farmer of 50 years ago and today. Subtitles and some text maybe included.

- Class** 4A - Grade 4
4B - Grade 5
4C - Grade 6

Optional Special Project - Individual Class 5

Topic: Agriculture

This class includes any self-directed project on the theme of agriculture that cannot be entered in class 4. Examples may be math, music, physical activity, etc.

- Class** 5A - Grade 4
5B - Grade 5
5C - Grade 6

Division Three - Grades 7-8-9

SOCIAL STUDIES

Class 6

Topic: Global Food Issues

Prepare a display that considers alternatives for feeding a hungry world and the role Alberta plays in the solution. May be a poster, collage, 3-D display, etc.

- Class** 6A - Grade 7
6B - Grade 8
6C - Grade 9

Optional Special Project - Individual Class 7

Topic: Agriculture

The class includes any self-directed project on an agriculture theme that cannot be entered in classes 6. Examples may be agriculture option, drama, math, etc.

- Class** 7A - Grade 7
7B - Grade 8
7C - Grade 9

Entries in these classes are limited to projects completed by an individual or two people.

TIP: Visual appeal is very important. Wherever possible use simple and neat mounting for exhibits. Remember the exhibits will be transported over the summer to various events. Show off your students!!!

Please take a minute to fill in and return the tear off portion of this page -- your input is important.

Ag Ambassador Network -- Update

Please complete and return. Please **print** clearly.

Ag Ambassador Name Change

Ag Ambassador School Change

FROM	FROM -- SCHOOL	TO -- SCHOOL
TO	MAILING ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
	CITY/POSTAL CODE	CITY/POSTAL CODE

